

NEC-158US

09/547,036

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Reply to office action mailed 2/12/2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As a technique for transferring and controlling a driver-software suitable for the devices, which is different in the technical field from the system for managing the AV apparatus, a data telecommunication system which is shown in Fig. 5 is disclosed in, for example, Japanese Patent Kokai Publication JP-A-10-214243. In this data telecommunication system, ~~devices~~ device (printer, digital video camera) 50 ~~are~~ is connected with a device controller 56 for controlling the device 50 by communication control means ~~51, 47 47 and 51, respectively,~~ which conducts conduct communication via an IEEE 1394 cable. The device controller 56 determines whether or not a driver software which is suitable for controlling the device 50 is stored. If stored, the driver software is transmitted to a device controller 56, which controls the device 50 based upon the transmitted driver software. However, if the data telecommunication system which is described in the above-cited Publication is applied to a controller which controls the AV apparatus, the driver software which is possessed by each AV apparatus is transferred to the device controller, so that the device controller only controls the AV apparatus by the transfer driver software.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a fourth aspect of the present invention, the managing apparatus comprises an input unit inputting information which is specified by ~~an~~ a user so that presetting of the connection mode and function allocation of the AV apparatus is rendered possible ~~by the specification of~~ as specified by the user.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a seventh aspect of the present invention, the system further ~~comprise~~ comprises a selecting module (or step) selecting an AV apparatus which performs the function in a predetermined selecting format when a plurality of AV apparatus have a same rank for a same function.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In an eighth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an AV apparatus managing system comprising one or more audio-video apparatus, hereinafter referred to as AV apparatus, and a plurality of information processing apparatus being connected to one or more of the AV apparatus and having functions outputting audio and/or ~~vide~~ video signals, and wherein the AV apparatus selects the information processing apparatus having a highest rank function based upon rank information of the functions possessed by this AV apparatus to transmit a control driver of the highest rank function to the selected information processing apparatus.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the managing apparatus 10 obtains the information of each AV apparatus (AV apparatus information shown in Fig. 2) which is transferred from the AV apparatus 12, 13, 14, it analyzes the contents of the information to confirm the function (or functions) 22 which is (are) possessed by each AV apparatus. The managing module 11 detects the presence of the functions 22 which are duplicated among AV apparatus, if any. In other words, the ~~AV apparatus 12, 13, 14~~ managing module 11 detects the doubling of the functions by checking whether or not there are

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identical functions contained in the AV apparatus information transferred from the AV apparatus 12, 13, 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The drivers A, B, C which is are transferred to the managing apparatus 10 is stored in the storing module 16 of the managing apparatus. The managing module 11 transfer:

the driver A of function A to the second and third AV apparatus 13 and 14, respectively,

the driver B of the function B to the first and third AV apparatus 12 and 14, respectively, and

the driver C of the function C to the first and ~~third~~ second AV apparatus 12 and ~~14~~ 13, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The first to third AV apparatus 12, 13, and 14 may be, for example, DVD-ROM, TV receiver and stereo amplifier. The functions A, B and C may be decoding function of NTSC video signal, audio decode function and optical output function. The DVD-ROM does not directly decode video signal, but ~~decodes~~ the output video data is decoded by the video decode function of the TV for displaying it.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second AV apparatus 13 transfers the drivers of the functions A and B to the ~~second~~ first and third AV apparatus 12 and 14, respectively.